

# What Can Your Local Conservation District Do For You?

Kimberly Richardson, Director  
KY Division of Conservation

A series of horizontal lines in teal and white, located on the right side of the slide, extending from the left edge of the text area.

# Who is your conservation district?

- 121 Conservation Districts
  - 2 in Logan County-North and South
- Established in by KRS 262 in 1940
- First Conservation District-South Logan in 1941, North Logan soon followed
- The remaining 119 districts were established with the last (Henderson County) in 1954.



# Who is your conservation district?

- Each conservation district is governed by a seven member Board of Supervisors
  - Serve a 4 year term
  - Elections are held every 2 years with 3 supervisors being elected one time and 4 the next
  - Cannot hold any other elected office
  - Serve without pay
  - Qualifications are that they must be a resident of the district and must file a nominating petition.



# Who is your conservation district?

- Meet on a monthly basis
- All meetings are open to the public
- You may call the district in order to receive notifications on when their meetings will occur

# Why are Conservation Districts important?

The purpose of conservation districts - K.R.S. Chapter 262:

- To conserve and develop all renewable natural resources (land, water, trees, etc.)
- Coordinate (public and private, local, state and federal) assistance to landowners and users to address natural resource concerns



# Programs offered by Conservation Districts

- State Programs
  - Equipment Revolving Loan Program
    - Established in 1948
    - Provides loans to Conservation Districts for heavy and specialized conservation equipment
    - Districts can loan-lease the equipment to local contractors or farmers as long as it is made available for conservation work
    - 2% loan rate for a 3, 4, or 5 year payment schedule dependent upon price of equipment



# Programs offered by Conservation Districts

- Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program
  - Assists producer engaged in agriculture or silviculture operations address nonpoint source pollution problems
  - Best management practices address loss of topsoil, reduced sediment, animal waste, and nutrients from polluting the waters of the Commonwealth
  - Conservation districts take applications year around

# Programs offered by Conservation Districts

- Practices available through State Cost Share include
  - Filter strips
  - Heavy Use Areas
  - Rotational Grazing
  - Stream bank Stabilization
  - Stream Crossings



# Programs offered by Conservation Districts

- State Cost Share funds are also used for
  - Environmental Grants
    - Grants made to conservation districts to local conservation districts for local concerns
      - Dead Animal Removal
      - White Goods Clean-up
      - Septic Tank Installations
      - Atrazine Clean-up
      - Soil Testing

# Programs offered by Conservation Districts

- State Cost Share Money is also for
  - Corrective Measures
    - If a landowner receive a “Letter of Warning” or a “Notice of Violation” from the Division of Water, money is available to fix the issue.
    - Landowners must contact their local conservation district and ask for the assistance.
      - Farmers can receive up to \$20,000 per year for practices installed to correct the problem.

# Programs offered by Conservation Districts

- Agriculture Districts
  - Any landowner who wants to
    - Protect his land from annexation into a nearby city
    - Receive bonus points on their State Cost Share application and PACE (Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easements) applications
    - Protect his land from condemnation without mitigation
    - Be eligible for deferred assessment costs when water lines are extended

# Programs offered by Conservation Districts

- The landowner must
  - Have 250 or more acres or when combined contiguously with neighbors
  - Have an individual parcels at least 10 acres or 11 acres with a homestead

Agriculture Districts could be the right answer!

- Petitions are available at the local office
- The agriculture district must first be approved by the local board

# Educational Programs by Conservation Districts

- Jim Claypool Art and Conservation Writing Contest
  - Students in grades 1-5 –Art
  - Students in grades 6-12-Writing
  - Reaches over 60,000 students each year
  - Cooperative effort from agencies dealing with soils, water, wildlife and forestry



# Educational Programs by Conservation Districts

- Envirothon
  - High school students compete in the following areas:
    - Aquatics
    - Forestry
    - Soils
    - Wildlife
    - Current Issue (2016-”Invasive Species: A Challenge to the Environment, Economy and Society)

# Local Conservation District Programs

- Field days
- Banquets
- Local cost share
- Soil Stewardship week
- Tree giveaways
- Earth day celebrations
- Safety days
- Recycling and white goods events
- Scholarships
- County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP)
- Soil testing

# Local Conservation District Programs

- Workshops
  - Best Management Practices
    - No-till planting
    - Buffer strips
    - Composting
  - New skills
    - Pollinators
    - Ginseng



# Local Conservation District Programs

- Equipment rental
  - Many have equipment for rent so that landowners can carry out conservation practices on their land without purchasing expensive equipment themselves.
    - No-till drills
    - Sprayers
    - Tree planters

# Division of Conservation

- Contact us at 502-564-2320
- Visit our website at [www.conservation.ky.gov](http://www.conservation.ky.gov)
  - You will find a listing of all county conservation districts



